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RIVINGTON'S NEW-YORK GAZETTEER; OR CONNECTICUT, HUDSON'S-RIVER, NEW-JERSEY, AND QUEBEC WEEKLY ADVERTISER.

To the Subscribers for RIVINGTON'S NEW-YORK GAZETTEER.

GENTLEMEN,

IN Pursuance of my Engagements, I now humbly lay before the Public the first Number of the NEW-YORK GAZETTEER, and shall endeavour to explain more fully the Nature of my Plan. I am sensible that I have undertaken a Task of great Importance and Difficulty. When so many Persons of a vast Variety of Views and Inclinations are to be satisfied, it must often happen, that what is highly agreeable to some, will be equally disagreeable to others. It is however nothing but Justice, in such Cases, that as a Person is pleased when he is presented with what is suitable to his own Taste, so he should candidly permit the Appetites of others to be consulted in the common Entertainment. It is my Office, and shall be my constant study, to render this Work as generally useful and amusing as possible. For this Reason, no personal Satire, and acrimonious Censures on any Society or Class of Men, shall ever stain this Paper. No generous Mind can be delighted with the Assassination of a Neighbour's Character, and the Cause of Truth and Justice can never stand in need of illiberal and unmanly Invectives. There are far nobler Purposes which a Work of this Kind may answer. The general Interests and State of Nations, the Causes of the Rise and Declension of Empires, and the singular and important Occurrences that arise in any Quarter of the Globe, when faithfully exhibited, cannot fail of interesting, entertaining, and in some Degree, instructing every Reader. For these Purposes, the Conductor of this Paper, will by Means of an extensive Correspondence, collect the important Transactions, both Foreign and Domestic, and present them to the Public, with all those collateral Circumstances which tend to elucidate them, and with those useful Observations on them, which shall have been made by the judicious and learned.

And as it is highly useful and entertaining to observe the gradual Progress and State of the Arts and Sciences, he will carefully collect and record every Discovery or Improvement which may be made in any of their numerous Branches, that his Paper may contain a History, not only of the busy, but speculative Part of Mankind. He will publish an Account of every new Performance, deem'd worthy of Notice, and lay before the Public such Extracts from each, as may be entertaining or useful, or tend to give a true Idea of the Work. In this Part of his Design the Gentlemen of the Law *shall find a constant Attention paid to the Cases which may arise, and the Adjudications given of them by the learned Ornaments of the Courts of Westminster, Edinburgh and Dublin: the* Physician *shall be presented with every material Improvement relating to the Healing Art; and the* Divine *with an Account of every noted Attack and Defence of our most holy Religion.*

He doubts not also, but that a regular Journal of the Proceedings of the British Parliament, with the Speeches of its various Members, will be highly agreeable and useful. If the most sterling Reasoning and manly Eloquence, on the most interesting Subjects, can claim our Attention, or delight our Minds, the Debates of the British Senators cannot fail furnishing us with the most rational Entertainment.

Neither shall the humbler Instruments of Amusement and Instruction escape his Attention. Much Light is thrown on public Characters, by striking Anecdotes of their Conduct in private Life. The humourous Repartee, the jocose Sally, or pleasant Adventure, shall not be omitted; and the interesting Tale of Woe shall ever have a Place in this Paper.

And as the Publication of concise Essays on Subjects of Morality, Decorum, or any Literary Topics, has been found productive of much Advantage, and generally constitutes a considerable Part in Works of this Nature, the Man of Genius and Learning shall be allowed a fair Opportunity in this Paper of exercising his Talents for the Public Good. But still it shall be an invariable Rule with the Publisher, never to admit any Performance, calculated to injure Virtue, Religion or the public Happiness, to wound a Neighbour's Reputation, or raise a Blush in the Face of Virgin Innocence.

The Fair Sex *forms the most engaging and amiable Part of our Species, and shall therefore never have Cause to complain, that their Interests and Entertainment are neglected in this Paper. They shall be assiduously made acquainted with the Publications which immediately tend to their Improvement, and such Particulars as may be worthy of their Notice shall be industriously inserted.*

It shall also be especially his Study to furnish the Commercial Interest *with all those Informations which may be beneficial to Trade, and that in the speediest and most authentic Manner.*

Upon the whole, he assures the Gentlemen who have so generously encouraged his Undertaking, that he will never be wanting in Attention and Diligence, to render this Paper answerable to their Expectations. In the Course of this Publication he is convinced that it is impossible intirely to escape *Censure; but he will earnestly endeavour* not to deserve it. *His Correspondents may depend upon all that* Secrecy *and* Impartiality *which ought to distinguish a Person in his Department, and the numerous Subscribers for his GAZETTEER may expect his unwearied Labours, to render it generally useful and pleasing. With sincere Gratitude for their liberal Patronage, he remains their much obliged,*

and very humble Servant,

JAMES RIVINGTON.

The CENSOR.

No. I.

Quid verum atq; decens, curo & rogo, et omnis in hoc sum;
Nullius addictus jurare in verba Magistri. HOR.

Forc'd to no darling Sage, or Sect to swear,
The true, the decent shall be all my Care. CONGREVE.

WHO is the Author? Where was he Born? What is his Character, his Profession, his place of Abode? Are Questions, which though commonly put on such Occasions as the present, one would conceive can have no Tendency to decide the Merit or Demerit of a Performance. The contemplative Mind would be apt to conclude, that the Name of the Cook could not alter the Taste of the Dishes, and that Truth could receive no Force from the most accurate Knowledge of the Colour and Length of its Advocate's Beard. But Experience corrects the hasty Decisions of Speculation. The Success of a Performance, generally as much depends on the Temper of the Readers, as the Relish of a Feast on the Appetites of the Guests. I allow you, gentle Sir. the full Force of the old Adage, "*De Gustibus non est disputandum,*" but surely it is, nevertheless, absurd to object to a Suit of Cloaths, because the Taylor was Born on the North Side of the Tweed, or to turn off your Shoe-maker because his Nose is an Inch longer than your own. Yet such is the Magic of Prejudice, that *Trifles light as Air*, when put in her Ballance, shall outweigh the most ponderous Considerations in the opposite Scale. The same Action, attended with the same characteristic Circumstances, when viewed through her Glass, shall in this Man appear honourable, in another, contemptible and degrading. It is no small Subject of Entertainment to attend to the inconsistencies, which even the more sensible Part of Mankind are hurried into, by this fatal Disease. I have known a Critic who idolized the Writings of Pope, to fret with disgust and find out a thousand Absurdities in one of his Poems, merely because he mistook it for the Production of some modern Wit. I have seen a Politician devouring a Performance with his Eyes, and extolling every Part of it for its strength of Reasoning and elegance of Stile, till some unlucky Period has discovered that it was written by an Adversary, on which he turned Pale, exclaimed that the whole was fulsome and tedious, and gravely ascribed his former Admiration to a hasty Perusal.

'Tis recorded of the late ingenious and learned Doctor Waterland, that being on a Journey through the Country he put up, very much disordered, at an Inn on the Road, and ordered one of the Faculty to be sent for to administer a glyster. The Physician accordingly appeared, when through some unlucky Star, mistaking his Patient for Dr. Warburton, he exclaimed as he approached the Bed, "that he thought it one of the most happy Circumstances "of his Life, that he had an Opportunity of assisting the "Author of so incomparable and learned a Book as the "*Divine Legation*"--"Away from my Sight instantly," cried the sick Man, starting out of Bed, "never will I "trust my Health to a Person who has so little Understand-"ing as to approve of such a Performance;" so saying, he hurried on his Cloaths, mounted his Horse, and resolutely bore the inconveniencies of his Ailment, till he arrived at the next Village, which was at a considerable Distance.

Ego homuncio hoc non facerem? If Personages of so much Distinction in the learned World become such Dupes to their Prejudices, can we wonder that the inferior Part of Mankind are subject to the same or grosser inconsistencies? Were the Effects of Prejudice however as harmless in general, as in the above Instance, the Distemper would only deserve Ridicule. But when we have constant evidence that it obscures the Distinction between Truth and Falsehood, moral Beauty and Deformity; that it renders us unjust to the Merits of others, and prevents that Union of Design and Interests so salutary to the Community, we can Want no Motive to prompt us to guard against the first Approaches of so fatal a Deceiver. The truly generous Man overlooks the little Distinctions of Place, Rank, and Opinion, and loves his own Image where ever it may be found. He embraces Truth though discovered in a Cloister, and, though a *Samaritan*, pours Wine and Oil into the Wounds of even an unfortunate Jew. For Persons of this Disposition shall my future Lucubrations be calculated; Malice shall vainly search them to find any Sacrifice to her Resentment, and Wantonness for any Palliation of her Folly.

'Tis true the Path I am entering has been heretofore trodden by the most illustrious Wits: But there are still many Beauties in it which they have not collected, and many Flowers capable of Pleasing which they perhaps would not stoop to cull. The humble Searcher after Truth, who is confined to a narrow Circle, often discovers those useful Objects which escape the Sight of the elevated Genius, whose Prospects are Numerous and Extensive. Each Product of Nature has its Use and Beauty, from the spreading Majestic Oak of Britain, to the humble Herb that shoots up within the Inclosure of the untuotred American.

'Tis a common Observation that Population thrives, when the Means of raising and supporting a Progeny, are readily obtained. 'Tis much the same with relation to Literature. The *Libido Scribendi*, the Desire of begetting intellectual Offspring is sufficiently Warm among us, and I am Confident that Numbers of my Fellow-Citizens would joyfully gratify it, if they had but a Prospect that their Brats would make but a tolerable Figure in the World. To see them Perish almost as soon as they are Born, is a Spectacle which no Father can bear. To remove this Impediment therefore, I shall consider myself as a common Parent, and do Promise, by these Presents, to give a kind Reception to all the sound and healthy Offspring of the Literary Inhabitants of this Province, reserving to myself the full Right of destroying, or returning to their Parents, all that are born of stolen Embraces, or so weak and deformed as to be incapable of Public Service. Least any should be deterred from complying with this Proposal by a Fear of being discovered, a CORNU-COPIA shall be conveniently placed in the House of the Printer hereof, in which the most bashful Parents may securely deposit the Fruit of their Labours.

"But who are *you* Friend, and what is *your* Business?" Important Questions indeed! The *first* of which I may perhaps answer, as well as I can, in my next Number, and the *last*, I cannot better reply to, than in the Words of an eminent Poet, that my Business shall be, to

"Expatiate free o'er all this Scene of Man,
"A mighty Maze; but not without a Plan.
"Together we will beat this ample Field
"Try what the open, what the covert yield;
"The latent Tracts, the giddy Heights explore
"Of all who blindly creep, or sightless soar,
"Eye Natnre's Walks, shoot Folly as it flies,
"And catch the Manners living as they rise,
"Laugh where we must, be candid where we can,
"But vindicate the Ways of God to Man. POPE.

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(The Debates in the House of Commons continued from the first Address delivered last Month, to the Subscribers for this GAZETTEER.

SUPPOSED to be lost, I found that his Majesty's money was disposed of in an œconomical manner; that the Navy-office had very justly allowed her eight weeks, from her departure, to be lost, and paid to that time. What did the India Company do? Why, *generously* allowed a twelvemonth's pay. They have now appointed six Supervisors, though before there were but three, and those are supposed to have 10,000l. per ann. and all expences, with a table, paid; and it is computed they will be absent three years. I would ask any Gentleman, if it is possible for the India Company to send out a more respectable character than an Admiral, Commander in Chief? What is he allowed? What is the Governor of Jamaica allowed? Why, 6000l. per annum. But it is said, that much parade is necessary; but I answer, on the authority of the late Mr. Vanittart, that no pageantry is necessary, and that it is a foolish and weak expence, unnecessarily incurred.

Mr. Burke. I rise up to thank the noble Lord in office, for his extreme bounty in assuring us, that no hostile intentions are designed against the East-India Company, and that he wishes to make it a GREAT and GLORIOUS Company (for those are his *pompous* expressions) and put it upon a permanent footing. Three Kings have cut, I an unfortunate kingdom with fire and sword, in presume, to make it also a GREAT and GLO they have dom, and secure to it its *liberties* and *laws* the noble published a manifesto to that purpose, lives it to you to-Lord has perhaps just received; and But let us examine day lest it might be stale to-morrow is a committee appointed to this extraordinary matter: committee, which have pointed last year; a fair and the lawful wife publicly produced nothing. This barren, they have taken a neat, avowed; but finding he they call a *Secret committee*, and this little snug one, which is her *first born*. deed, from the singular expedition of this extraordin delivery, I am apt to think she was *pregnant* before *ttaleck*: Yet, after all, what is this report before invasion of the Company's charter! It is, Sir, but a dir a bill to suspend a law of the land; it is neither more nor less and we are, after distressing the Company, about to rob them of their charter, and over-throw their constitution. In the year 1767, administration plundered the Company of 400,000l and this I assert to have occasioned their present distress. If we suffer this bill to pass, we shall, in fact, become the East-India Company; and you, Sir, will be seated in that Chair with a little hammer, by an inch of candle. The Treasury Bench will be the buyers, and on this side we shall be the sellers. The Senate